

Academic Vocabulary for Chapter 2

These are the terms you should know as you read and analyze the stories in this chapter.



Reading Standard 1.1
Identify and use the literal and figurative meanings of words and understand word derivations.

Reading Standard 1.3
Identify Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology and use the knowledge to understand the origin and meaning of new words (e.g., the word *narcissistic* drawn from the myth of Narcissus and Echo).

Reading Standard 3.3
Analyze interactions between main and subordinate characters in a literary text (e.g., internal and external conflicts, motivations, relationships, influences) and explain the way those interactions affect the plot.

Reading Standard 3.4
Determine characters' traits by what the characters say about themselves in narration, dialogue, dramatic monologue, and soliloquy.

Characterization The way writers create characters in a story. In **direct characterization**, writers tell us directly what a character is like ("good" or "evil" or "lazy"). In **indirect characterization** you use clues in the story to decide what kind of person a character is. Clues may be descriptions of how the character acts, speaks, and thinks and how other people respond to the character.



Protagonist The main character in a story.

Antagonist The character that the main character (protagonist) struggles against.

Subordinate characters Minor characters in the story.



Motivations The reasons behind a character's actions and feelings.

Flat character A character who is not fully developed in the story. A flat character is almost never the main character.

Round character A character who is fully developed, just as a person in actual life is.

Dynamic character A character who changes during the story. The change might involve recognition of some truth about life.

Static character A character who does not change during the story.



Dialogue The conversations characters have with other characters.

First-person narration A story told by an "I" narrator. An "I" narrator is a character in the story.



For Further Information ...

- Be sure to read the essay on **character** in *Holt Literature and Language Arts*, pages 84–85.
- Be sure to read the essay on **character interactions** in *Holt Literature and Language Arts*, pages 116–117.